- Universal retention by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.

Consequent upon implementation of the SSA since 2001-02, a large number of children have been brought in the fold of School Education. The number of out of school children in the country has declined from 320 lakh in 2001-02 to 70 lakh in 2006-07, as per State Reports.

(f) to (h) The SSA is being implemented to achieve the aim of universalisation of elementary education in a time bound manner by 2010.

A rigorous system of monitoring of the Sarva Shiksa Abhiyan has been put in place to obtain feedback on the progress of the programme.

During 2007-08 a B.E. of Rs. 10671 crore has been provided for the SSA programme to further its progress.

Setting up of new universities

92. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up 30 new universities for expanding access to higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the universities that would be set up in Orissa;

(c) whether it is also proposed to set up 6,000 quality schools, one in each block of the country, to secure excellence in public schooling; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, indicating *inter-alia,* those that are proposed to be set up in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Subject to the finalization of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, it is proposed to establish one Central University in each of the 16 States, including Orissa, which do not have any Central University. In addition, 14 World Class Universities are also proposed to be established as Central Universities, details of which are yet to be worked out.

(c) and (d) The proposal in this regard is only at the conceptual stage.

Education in the National Common Minimum Programme

93. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps initiated by Government to fulfil the promises made in the National Common Minimum Programme in regard to education;

(b) whether the Right to Education, enshrined in the Constitution, has been fulfilled;